

February

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

including the Report of the

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

for the year

**1959**



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Printed by The Caxton Press, Holt House, Flamsted End, Cheshunt, Herts.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MANOR HOUSE,  
CHESHUNT.

June, 1960.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Cheshunt.*

I have the honour to present my fourteenth annual report together with that of the Public Health Inspector upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1959.

The report follows the general lines indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 1/60.

The vital statistics for the district were again satisfactory. The birth rate was 18.33 compared with the rate for England and Wales of 16.5, while the death rate for Cheshunt was 10.02 compared with 11.6 for England and Wales. Unfortunately there was one maternal death during the year.

The incidence of infectious disease generally was low with the exception of measles, of which there were 713 cases. This follows the normal pattern with a minor epidemic in alternate years.

There was a marked increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever and other streptococcal infections, but the cases were very mild. Careful investigation failed to show any common vehicle for the spread of infection or any common source of infection. There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year and no case of diphtheria has been reported in Cheshunt since 1946. There were 14 cases of a mild type of dysentery and the notifications of food poisoning totalled 18. Generally, the year was uneventful from the public health point of view, but the important first step was taken in December towards securing a cleaner atmosphere by the decision in principle to create the first smoke controlled area.

I should like once more to record my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support in the work of the Department.

C. R. HILLIS,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT

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## **Public Health Committee, 1959-1960**

Councillor R. A. J. HARVEY, M.B.E. (Chairman)  
Councillor J. R. ADAMS  
Councillor G. F. BATCHELOR, M.B.E.  
Councillor D. E. BREEZE  
Councillor W. DRYDEN, J.P.  
Councillor Mrs. J. M. LOCKE  
Councillor Miss J. M. NEWELL  
Councillor G. E. TERRY  
Councillor R. WHITLOCK

## **Public Health Department Staff :**

*Medical Officer of Health (Part Time):*

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.Ch.

Official Address: Manor House, Turner's Hill, Cheshunt  
Herts.

Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 23381.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) :*

JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

*Senior Public Health Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum  
Act, Inspector under the Shops Act :*

C. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspectors :*

S. C. BAKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

J. L. BILLINGS, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Refuse Collection Supervisor :*

E. K. CLARK

*General :*

Clerk/Typist :

Mrs. T. ATKINS

Clerk :

R. C. LOCKWOOD (Returned from National Service on 1.9.59)

Miss K. GIDDINGS (Temporary—Appointment terminated  
3.10.59)

*Rodent Operative :* P. F. DEAN

# SECTION I

## STATISTICS

AREA: The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's Estimate :

1948	21,210	1952	23,880	1956	27,000
1949	21,490	1953	24,670	1957	28,050
1950	22,180	1954	25,350	1958	29,450
1951	23,290	1955	26,090	1959	31,110
Number of inhabited houses on the			1959	1960	
rate books (at 31st March) ...			9,378	9,910	
Rateable Value ... ..			£395,264	£448,415	
Sum represented by penny rate ...			£1,629	£1,843	

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

				Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes	...	...		124	102	226
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...		329	301	630
Illegitimate	...	...		4	7	11
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...		2	3	5
Illegitimate	...	...		—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:						
Legitimate	...	...	...	6	2	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:						
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	—	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one week of age:						
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	—	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

## COMPARABILITY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole the crude birth and death rates for the area should be multiplied by the area comparability factor supplied for the purpose by the General Register Office. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The adjusted rates for Cheshunt, together with the crude rates for England and Wales for comparison, are as follows:

	Crude Death Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1955	7.36	1.11	8.17	11.7
1956	6.19	1.30	8.05	11.7
1957	7.27	1.32	9.60	11.5
1958	8.01	1.34	10.73	11.7
1959	7.26	1.38	10.02	11.6

	Crude Birth Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1955	14.68	0.95	13.95	15.0
1956	16.93	0.92	15.58	15.6
1957	17.15	0.91	15.61	16.1
1958	20.98	0.90	18.88	16.4
1959	20.60	0.89	18.33	16.5 (prov.)

	1958	1959
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still), Cheshunt ... ..	20.60	7.74

### Maternal Mortality, Cheshunt:

Deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	1	1
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# INFANT MORTALITY :

All infants per 1,000 live births

Year				Cheshunt	England and and Wales	
				No. of Deaths	Rate	Rate
1950	...	...	...	8	22.59	29.6
1951	...	...	...	11	27.85	29.7
1952	...	...	...	6	16.30	27.6
1953	...	...	...	10	28.33	26.8
1954	...	...	...	12	31.58	25.4
1955	...	...	...	4	10.44	24.9
1956	...	...	...	8	17.51	23.7
1957	...	...	...	7	14.55	23.1
1958	...	...	...	8	12.94	22.6
1959	...	...	...	8	12.48	22.0

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate 12.70

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate —

Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (under  
4 weeks) ... .. 6.24

Illegitimate live births % of total live births ... 1.72

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births 1.55

## CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING 1959:

			Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	2	3
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—



	Male	Female	Total
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	—	13
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	9	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—	—
Diabetes ... ..	2	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system .	11	10	21
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	22	10	32
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	4	5
Other heart disease ... ..	14	24	38
Other circulatory disease ... ..	3	5	8
Influenza ... ..	1	1	2
Pneumonia ... ..	9	6	15
Bronchitis ... ..	8	5	13
Other diseases of respiratory system .	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	1	1
Congenital malformations ... ..	1	3	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	12	22
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	2	1	3
All other accidents ... ..	6	1	7
Suicide ... ..	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
<hr/>			
All causes ... ..	124	102	226
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## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD SERVICES

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Health Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Monday to Friday (inclusive) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC	Health Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. 1st Friday in each month. 2 to 5 p.m.
PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Tolmers Road, Cuffley. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, 2 to 5 p.m.
CHEST CLINIC	Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey. Monday, 9.45 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Artificial Pneumothorax refills 9.45 a.m.)

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE	Fire and Ambulance Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1959: two shift leaders, eight ambulance drivers, one ambulance, one sitting case car.
DAY NURSERY	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross (Tel.: Waltham Cross 24878). 40 places for children 0 to 5 years.
HOME HELP SERVICE	Organiser: Mrs. M. Ellis, 194 High Street, Waltham Cross. (Tel. No.: W.X. 24658). Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 31st December, 1959: 59. Cases assisted during 1959: 293.

WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS      Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt.  
Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.  
Memorial Hall, Goff's Oak. 1st and 3rd  
Wednesdays in the month at 1.30 to 4.30  
p.m. Doctor attends.

Community Centre, Edmonton Estate,  
Flamstead End. Tuesday afternoon.  
Doctor attends 2nd and 4th Tuesday in  
the month. (Waltham Cross 25156.)

Health Centre, rear of Greenfield House,  
High Street, Waltham Cross. (Tel.:  
Waltham Cross 23401.)

Minor Ailments Clinic. Wednesday 9  
to 10 a.m.

Mothers' Club—Wednesday evenings.

Immunisation and Special Cases. 2nd  
and 4th Wednesday mornings. Doctor  
attends.

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.

Ophthalmic Clinic. Fridays 9.30 to  
11.30 a.m.

Speech Therapy Clinic. Friday 9 a.m.  
to 12.15 p.m. and 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic and Relaxation  
Classes. Mondays 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Doctor attends.

Infant Welfare Centre. Wednesday 1.45  
to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.

Orthoptic. Thursday a.m. and p.m.  
Friday a.m. and p.m.

HEALTH VISITORS AND SCHOOL  
NURSES      Miss M. Stirling, Welfare Centre, High  
Street, Waltham Cross. (Waltham Cross  
23401.)

Mrs. I. Jorgensen, Welfare Centre, High  
Street, Waltham Cross.

Miss M. E. Pawsey, Community Centre,  
Edmonton Estate, Flamstead End. (Wal-  
tham Cross 25156).

Miss J. P. Young, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak. (Cuffley 2420.)

DISTRICT NURSES AND MIDWIVES      Miss Hitchon and Miss Skidmore, 178 High Street, Waltham Cross. (Waltham Cross 23127.)

Miss M. Smith, 24 Cromwell Avenue, Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 23580.)

Miss M. G. Brown, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak. (Cuffley 2420.)

Miss E. L. Day, Park Cottage, Flamstead End. (Waltham Cross 23410.)

Miss G. D. Taylor, 1 Prescott Road, Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 22344.)

Miss P. Garfield, 81 Barrow Lane, Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 23745.)

## OTHER SERVICES

### BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

Sessions are held at the Health Centre, Waltham Cross, at intervals of approximately six weeks. Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss E. Munns, Honorary Organiser, National Blood Transfusion Service, 49 Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 23026.

### BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Society has a range of medical equipment for the sick and injured, available on loan on the recommendation of Medical Practitioners and District Nurses. The equipment is at 194 High Street, Waltham Cross. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 24658.

In addition to their normal activities, the local Detachment have available a team which is on call for disaster relief work under the Commandant, Mrs. M. Ellis, 665 Goff's Lane, Cheshunt.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Hertford County Hospital. Larger scale facilities are available at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, and the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1947-1951.

During the year no action was taken by the Council under Section 47 of the Act for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

#### MORTUARY.

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year, seven bodies were received in the mortuary.

#### W.V.S. MEALS SERVICE.

A Meals on Wheels service for house-bound people nominated from statutory welfare sources is operated by the W.V.S., the Council paying a subsidy on the cost of the meals.

## SECTION III

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1958 and 1959:—

		1958 Cases Notified	1959		
			Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	...	27	57	—	—
Measles ...	...	66	713	4	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	1	16	—	—
Pneumonia ...	...	31	40	6	15
Erysipelas ...	...	6	5	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	4	3	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	...	—	14	2	—
Food Poisoning ...	...	6	18	—	—
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum ...	...	2	3	1	—
Tuberculosis ...	...	16	10	6	3
Meningococcal					
Infection ...	...	3	1	1	—
Para-typhoid ...	...	—	1	1	—

#### MEASLES

Notifications of Measles in the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

Year					Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1950	...	...	...	...	22	0.99
1951	...	...	...	...	580	24.90
1952	...	...	...	...	199	8.33
1953	...	...	...	...	660	26.75
1954	...	...	...	...	4	0.16
1955	...	...	...	...	740	28.36
1956	...	...	...	...	58	2.15
1957	...	...	...	...	622	22.17
1958	...	...	...	...	66	2.10
1959	...	...	...	...	713	22.92

## WHOOPIING COUGH

The incidence of this disease over the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year					Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1950	...	...	...	...	130	5.86
1951	...	...	...	...	71	3.05
1952	...	...	...	...	88	3.10
1953	...	...	...	...	247	10.01
1954	...	...	...	...	32	1.26
1955	...	...	...	...	6	0.23
1956	...	...	...	...	98	3.63
1957	...	...	...	...	127	4.53
1958	...	...	...	...	1	0.03
1959	...	...	...	...	16	0.51

## PARATYPHOID B FEVER

One case was notified, the patient being a boy of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years who had recently returned from a caravan holiday in Devon. Investigation failed to reveal the source of infection.

## FOOD POISONING

During the year 18 cases of food poisoning were notified, six of which occurred in two family outbreaks. The other 12 were single cases, and in none of the 18 incidents was the causative agent identified. In addition, 20 cases were ascertained other than by notification and these occurred following a wedding reception at which sixty-two guests were present. No specimens of the foodstuffs consumed were available for examination, but salmonella thompson was isolated from one patient and two food-handlers. These positive members of the staff of the restaurant concerned were excluded from food handling until they were free from infection.



## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis in 1959 was 10 compared with 16 cases in 1958.

New Cases, 1959—classified by age groups:—

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0— 5	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	—	—	1
15—25	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	1	2
35—45	2	2	—	—	4
45—55	1	—	—	—	1
55—65	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	2	—	—	—	2
<hr/>					
	7	2	—	1	10
<hr/>					

					1958	1959
Number of cases from other areas transferred						
to Cheshunt	...	...	...	...	18	24

There were three deaths attributed to Tuberculosis in Cheshunt during 1959.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relate respectively to infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis and engaged in the handling of milk and to the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis.



## MASS RADIOGRAPHY

In August/September, the Mass Radiography Unit of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board carried out a district survey in Cheshunt. The self-contained mobile unit was used and it was stationed in four different parts of the district. The total number of persons X-rayed was 2,711 and details are given in Table I below, while details for each of the four locations are set out in Table II.

During the year the unit also visited the premises of Messrs. London Grocers at Cheshunt, Messrs. Cosmocord, Ltd. and Messrs. Murex at Waltham Cross, the latter factory being near the boundary but actually in the borough of Enfield. Details are given in Table III.

Previous visits of the unit to Cheshunt were in 1956, when 1,010 persons were X-rayed, and in 1953 when the number attending was 1,682.

TABLE I

	Male	Female	Total
Total number X-rayed on miniature film ... ..	1185	1526	2711
Total number recalled for further investigation ... ..	22	20	42
Pulmonary Tuberculosis:			
Requiring immediate treatment ...	—	3	3
Requiring occasional clinic supervision ... ..	6	3	9
Presumed healed, no further action required ... ..	5	4	9

TABLE II

### *Clarendon Parade, Cheshunt.*

	Male	Female	Total
Number X-rayed on miniature film .	204	296	500
Number recalled for further investigation ... ..	3	4	7

# Pulmonary Tuberculosis:

Requiring occasional clinic supervision	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Presumed healed requiring no further action	...	...	...	...	—	1	1

# Other Abnormalities:

Congenital abnormality right diaphragm	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1

## *Flamstead End, Cheshunt*

	Male	Female	Total
Number X-rayed on miniature film	246	279	525
Number recalled for further investigation	...	...	...
...	3	4	7

# Other Abnormalities:

Pneumoconiosis	...	...	...	1	—	1
Congenital abnormality of bony thorax	...	...	...	—	1	1

## *Goff's Oak*

	Male	Female	Total
Number X-rayed on miniature film	120	149	269
Number recalled for further investigation	...	...	...
...	2	2	4

# Pulmonary Tuberculosis:

Requiring occasional clinic supervision	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Presumed healed requiring no further action	...	...	...	...	1	—	1

# Other Abnormalities:

'Acquired abnormality of bony thorax	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Pleural thickening	...	...	...	...	1	—	1

*Waltham Cross*

	Male	Female	Total
Number X-rayed on miniature film .	615	802	1417
Number recalled for further investigation ... ..	14	10	24
Pulmonary Tuberculosis:			
Requiring immediate treatment ...	—	3	3
Requiring occasional clinic supervision ... ..	5	2	7
Presumed healed requiring no further action ... ..	4	3	7
Other Abnormalities:			
Emphysema ... ..	2	—	2
Acquired abnormalities of heart and vessels ... ..	1	2	3

TABLE III

*London Grocers, Cheshunt*

	Male	Female	Total
Number X-rayed on miniature film .	140	70	210
Number recalled for further investigation ... ..	—	—	—

*Murex, Waltham Cross*

Number X-rayed on miniature film .	227	152	379
Number recalled for further investigation ... ..	5	1	6

## Pulmonary Tuberculosis:

Presumed healed, no further action required ... ..	3	—	3
--	---	---	---

## Other Abnormalities:

Acquired abnormalities of heart vessels ... ..	—	1	1
Congenital Heart ... ..	1	—	1

*Cosmocord Ltd., Waltham Cross*

Number X-rayed on miniature film .	91	185	276
Number recalled for further investigation ... ..	—	1	1

## SECTION IV

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION OF THE AREA

#### REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

##### INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year numbered 2,751 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 641 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

##### SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	178
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects ... ..	122
Number of premises other than houses inspected ...	1,024
Premises re-inspected ... ..	467
Visits to works in progress ... ..	128
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	832
	2,751

Included in the above table are the following classified visits:—

Visits to Schools ... ..	21
„ „ places of public entertainment ... ..	6
„ „ swimming baths ... ..	14
„ „ moveable dwellings ... ..	92
„ re keeping animals ... ..	11
„ „ Petroleum Acts ... ..	158
„ „ Shops Acts ... ..	194
„ „ collection and disposal of refuse and salvage ...	111
„ „ infectious diseases and disinfections ... ..	183
„ „ drainage ... ..	33
„ „ rats and mice ... ..	28
„ „ insect infestation ... ..	25
„ „ verminous premises disinfested ... ..	3
„ „ houses let in lodgings ... ..	1
„ „ alleged overcrowding ... ..	10

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the Report.

## CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Two demolition orders and four closing orders were made during the year, bringing the total number of individual unfit houses dealt with by demolition orders since the beginning of 1953 to 142.

No action was taken under the Clearance Area procedure of the Housing Act, 1957, during the year.

Houses dealt with in 1959 were as follows:—

### DEMOLITION ORDERS.

Address				Date Order Made
113, Turner's Hill, Cheshunt	...	...	...	22.9.59
115/7, Turner's Hill, Cheshunt	...	...	...	22.9.59

### CLOSING ORDERS.

96, Turners Hill, Cheshunt	...	...	...	28.1.59
98 Turner's Hill, Cheshunt	...	...	...	28.1.59
109 Turner's Hill, Cheshunt	...	...	...	22.9.59
111 Turner's Hill, Cheshunt	...	...	...	22.9.59

Four houses were demolished during the year; this number includes houses on which demolition orders were made the previous year.

Undertakings that the premises should not be used for human habitation after vacation by the present tenant were accepted in respect of 120 Crossbrook Street, and North Lodge, Halstead Hill. An undertaking to carry out works was accepted in respect of 3 Willow Cottages, Newgatestreet Road.

## RENT ACT, 1957.

Details of applications for Certificates of Disrepair and applications for cancellation of Certificates during the year are as follows:—

Number of applications for certificates	...	...	9
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	Nil
Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	9
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	6
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	3
Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	3
Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	Nil
Number of certificates issued	...	...	6
Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	6
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	3
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	...	...	Nil
Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	7

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, came into operation on 15th June, 1959. Among other things, it varied the provisions relating to improvement grants and there are now two kinds of grant available for modernising old houses.

Firstly, the new standard grant under which house owners and certain leaseholders can obtain, as a right, half the cost, up to a maximum of £155, of installing five basic improvements: a bath or shower, a wash hand basin, a water closet, a hot water system, and food store.

Secondly, the existing discretionary grant under which up to half the estimated cost of more extensive improvements may be paid, at the discretion of the local Council, subject to a maximum grant of £400.

Both kinds of grant are available to owner-occupiers and to owners of rented houses.



Many enquiries were received for details regarding the Standard Grant scheme, and during the year grants were approved in respect of the provision of standard amenities at seven properties. In addition, under the existing discretionary grant scheme, grants to a total of £13,502 were approved in respect of more extensive works of improvement at forty-two properties.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

### Number of houses erected since 1945:

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt	...	1,459
By the Edmonton Borough Council	...	694
By the Tottenham Borough Council	...	185
By Private Enterprise	...	2,612
		<hr/>
		4,950
		<hr/>

### Number of houses erected during 1959:

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt	...	39
By Private Enterprise	...	573
		<hr/>
		612
		<hr/>



# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

## 1. INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	3	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	104	79	4	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	107	83	4	—

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
Unsuitable or Defective ...	4	4	—	—	—
Total ...	6	6	—	—	—

### 3. OUTWORKERS.

There is one factory in this area submitting lists of out-workers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of 30 places of employment of out-workers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Eighteen inspections were made of out-workers' premises and they were found to be satisfactory.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937—MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

During the year the factories of Messrs. Enfield Foundry Co., Ltd., York Road, Waltham Cross; Messrs. Burdon and Miles Ltd., Delamere Road, Cheshunt; Messrs. North London Saw Works, Eleanor Cross Road, Waltham Cross; Messrs. Cosmocord Ltd., Eleanor Cross Road, Waltham Cross; Messrs. Fell Bros. Ltd., High Street, Waltham Cross, and Messrs. Optical Laboratories Ltd., Eleanor Cross Road, Waltham Cross, were certified under Section 34 of the Act to be provided with such means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as may be reasonably required in the circumstances.

Following alterations at the factory of Messrs. Chadwick and Shapcott Ltd., High Street, Waltham Cross, including the erection of a new cellulose shop, the certificate of adequate means of escape in case of fire, dated 26th January, 1949, was suitably amended.

The certificate issued in respect of the factory premises of Messrs. Marrable and Co. Ltd., Delamare Road, was rendered obsolete by structural alterations and by an increase in the amount of inflammable materials stored and used, and a new certificate was therefore issued.

### PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Under Regulation 5 of the Hertfordshire (Music and Dancing) Regulations, 1955, all new applications to the County Council for a licence must be accompanied by a letter from the County District Council stating whether there is any objection on sanitary grounds to the licensing of the premises.

One new application was dealt with during the year and these premises satisfied the sanitary accommodation code adopted by the Council.

## SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance	...	...	...	...	10
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	...	...	...	...	27
Statutory Notices under Section 44, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide closets	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory Notice under Section 79, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring the removal of manure	...	...	...	...	1

## SUMMARY

Statutory Notices requiring defects in dwelling-houses to be remedied:—

Served 1959	...	...	12	Notice expired	...	1
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1958	...	...	1	Complied with, 1959	...	12
				Complied with by Council in default	...	—
				Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1959	...	—
			—			—
			13			13
			—			—

Intimation Notices:—

Outstanding, 31st December, 1958	...	...	...	59
Outstanding, 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	40
Served during 1959	...	...	...	94
Complied with during 1959	...	...	...	113

## WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the area of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

During the year the following samples from private water supplies were taken for bacteriological examination:—

	No. of Samples	Result
Theobalds Secondary Modern School      ...      ...      ...	6	Satisfactory.
Theobalds Park Camping Site	3	Satisfactory.
Cheshunt Common Lock - house, River Lea Tow Path	1	Satisfactory.
Aqueduct Lock Cottage, River Lea Tow Path      ...      ...	1	Satisfactory.
Riverside Cottage, Halfhide Lane      ...      ...      ..	1	Satisfactory.
Housemoors, Halfhide Lane ...	2	Satisfactory.
Britannia Nursery, Eleanor Cross Road      ...      ...	1	Satisfactory.
Aqueduct Lock House, River Lea Tow Path      ...      ...	1	Unsatisfactory.

#### SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no publicly owned baths or pools in the area.

#### *Cheshunt Swimming Club.*

This swimming pool is privately owned and it is operated on the fill and empty system with water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. During the season the water was changed every three weeks. Four samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

#### *Cheshunt Grammar School.*

The new swimming pool at the Grammar School was opened in June. The water used in the bath is obtained from the Metropolitan Water Board and a continuous filtration and chlorination plant is installed. One sample was taken for bacteriological examination during the season and was found to be satisfactory.

### *Theobalds Secondary Modern School.*

This swimming pool is operated on the fill and empty system with water from a chlorinated supply at the school. Supplementary chlorination is carried out manually. Two samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination in June and both were reported upon as unsatisfactory. Investigation showed that the routine chlorination of the pool was insufficient having regard to the number of bathers using it and arrangements were made for the dosage to be increased. A sample taken in July was reported upon as satisfactory.

### MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, consents without limitation of time were given to forty-three occupiers to keep forty-four caravans on the site of the Willows, Waltham Cross. Work on drainage, concrete paths, sanitary accommodation and clothes washing facilities was completed last year. Improvement of clinker surfaces and hard roadways is still in progress.

Consents were also renewed without limitation of time in respect of individual caravans on the following sites:—

209 Windmill Lane, Cheshunt.

Land occupied by Wood, Bulls Cross Ride.

Springfield Nursery, Crouch Lane.

Pylon Farm, St. James Road.

Tolcarne Nursery, Crouch Lane.

Sicklefield Nursery, Appleby Street.

Lowfield Nursery, St. James Road.

Highview Farm, Crouch Lane.

Land occupied by Smith, St. James Road.

Lea Valley Sand and Ballast Pits, Turnford.

Seven caravans, Park Lane, Waltham Cross.

Four caravans, Trinity Lane, Waltham Cross.

### INFESTATION.

No steam disinfection of bedding or clothing was undertaken during the year, contact insecticides being used where necessary to combat infestation.

As usual during the year the assistance of the Department was sought in dealing with a variety of insect infestations, such as bugs, ants, fleas, flies and beetles but wasps were particularly troublesome during the long spell of good weather and 285 wasps' nests were treated.

Where work is undertaken by the department to combat infestation a charge is made.

The "Gooseberry or Clover Mite" was again troublesome on the Church Lane and Turnford Council Housing Estates but the mites were not nearly so numerous as in previous years. The mites feed on plant juices and migrate from areas of grass into the adjoining dwelling-houses. They are harmless to humans and will not damage furniture or fabrics.

Treatment of the affected grass areas with suitable insecticides was undertaken at regular intervals.



# RODENT CONTROL.

Year ended 31st March, 1960.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Type of Property			Total
			Agricultural	(including Business and Industrial)		
Total Number of properties	7	9,880	130	1,408		11,425
Number of properties inspected	7	567	17	84		675
Number of properties found to be infested by rats	Major	8	4	1		14
	Minor	105	11	13		132
Number of properties found to be infested by mice ...	2	13	1	2		18
Number of infested properties treated ...	6	126	16	16		164
"Block" Treatments ...	—	4	—	—		4

Treatment of infestation of private dwellings is carried out free of charge but charges are made for rodent control work done at other premises.



## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected weekly and is disposed of by controlled tipping, partly at Albury Ride, Cheshunt and partly at Lodge Hollow, Hoddesdon. Both sites are gravel workings.

The tractor dozer used at the Council's site at Albury Ride, Cheshunt, had to be replaced by a new machine during the year. The tip is nearing the end of its capacity so that tipping is in shallow layers and the use of a tractor dozer is essential to spread and consolidate the refuse.

A new "W" type Fore and Aft Tipping Refuse Collection Vehicle with Trailer was put into operation on 1st September, 1959.

The refuse collection scheme adopted in November, 1958, worked well throughout the year. Its main points are that the collection is organised on a fixed round basis; the men are released when their day's quota of work is completed; where any gang is under strength for more than four man-hours on any day, an incentive payment is made equivalent to the number of man-hours lost at the current refuse collector's rate, provided the work of the gang is completed without overtime payment. A five-day week is worked throughout the year.

The cost of refuse collection and disposal for the past three years after the income from salvage sales has been deducted was as follows:—

		Year to 31st March		
		1958	1959	1960
Population	...	28,050	29,450	31,110
Net Cost	... ..	£18,055	£22,082	£23,695
Cost per 1,000				
population	...	£643	£749	£761

The Council have a contract with Messrs. Thames Board Mills, Ltd., for the sale of waste paper and in July the restriction on the delivery of newspapers was further increased, the quota being reduced from 9 to 6 tons per quarter. Mixed paper and fibre board containers remain free of restriction. From 1st October, 1959, the price of waste newspapers was reduced from £9 per ton to £8 10s. 0d. per ton and the limitation on deliveries was withdrawn.

The contract for the collection of kitchen waste from communal street bins was in operation throughout the year, but in November, the Council decided to discontinue the scheme when the contract expires on 29th February, 1960.

The salvage of kitchen waste was started as an emergency arrangement in war-time and has continued without break since then. By separate collection approximately 200 tons of putrescible food waste has been kept out of dustbins annually and made available for animal feeding. The bins were to some extent an obstruction on the footways and were detrimental to amenities. They were occasionally overturned and in summer gave rise to complaints regarding smell, flies and maggots. Noise from the banging of the bin lids was another reason for complaint.

Details of salvage sales during the year (to 31st March), together with the figures for 1958/59 are as follows:—

		1958/59		1959/60	
		Income	Tonnage	Income	Tonnage
		£		£	
Raw Kitchen Waste		295	230	295	230
Scrap Metal	...	154	9	103	9
Waste Paper	...	2,656	344	2,464	321
Other Salvage	...	282	12	256	12
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
		3,387	595	3,118	572
		<hr/>		<hr/>	

#### REFUSE DUMPS.

Dumping of refuse is controlled by consents granted by the County Council and the District Council under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

No new consents were granted during the year.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Two licences to keep pet shops were granted during the year and the conditions recommended by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were incorporated in the licences.

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The number of food premises in the area classified according to type of business is as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	44
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	64
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	27
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	19
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	77
Cafés, Caterers	...	...	...	...	...	29
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	24
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6

During the year 578 visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	167
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	22
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	63
Café and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	25
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	28
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	261

At premises other than slaughterhouses, the following foodstuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

Foods of all description	...	8,084 tins and jars.
Ham	...	16 lbs.
Liver	...	21 lbs.
Kidney	...	28 lbs.
Bacon	...	48 lbs.
Dried Peas	...	56 lbs.
Peanut Butter	...	28 lbs.
Carrots	...	32 tons
Crisps	...	452 bags

Two complaints were received regarding foreign matter in food which had been sold and both concerned milk. One complainant alleged that a bottle of milk contained a used aluminium bottle cap in the milk. The matter was taken up with the Dairy Company concerned and they undertook that a careful investigation would be carried out of their bottle washing arrangements and the arrangements for the inspection of washed bottles with a view to preventing any repetition of this type of complaint.

The second complaint related to what appeared to be a layer of solid froth inside the bottle on top of the milk. This sample was submitted to the Public Analyst for examination and details of his report are given on page 35.

#### MILK SAMPLING.

Six samples of milk from various retailers were submitted for laboratory examination during the year. All the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

The County Council undertake sampling for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms was received during the year.

#### MILK LICENCES.

Licences were granted for the year 1959 as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested—Dealer's Licence	...	...	8
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	...	4
Pasteurised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	6
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	4
Sterilised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	21
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	5

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There is only one slaughterhouse in the area, situated at 35 High Street, Cheshunt, and this has been licensed until 31st July, 1960.

One hundred and sixty-seven visits were made during the year and details of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned are shown in the following table:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed if known	146	—	2	901	54	—
Number inspected	... 146	—	2	901	54	—

*All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :*

Whole carcasses condemned	... .. —	—	—	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	... .. 8	—	—	8	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	... .. 5.5	—	—	1	—	—

*Tuberculosis only :*

Whole carcasses condemned	... .. —	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	... .. —	—	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	... .. —	—	—	—	3.7	—

*Cysticerci :*

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	... .. —	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	... .. —	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	... .. —	—	—	—	—	—

**METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.**

Condemned foodstuffs are buried with suitable precautions at the Council's Refuse Disposal Tip or are sent to the Refuse Incineration Plant of an adjoining authority.

**LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERMEN.**

Licences were granted under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, to three applicants to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse by the captive bolt method.



## REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, together with the number of inspections is shown in the following table:—

Premises	No.	No. of Inspections
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	73	63
Food Preparing Premises ... ..	25	58
Dairies ... ..	4	6

## ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1959.

No contraventions were recorded of the Regulations regarding temperature at which ice cream is to be kept or as to protection from contamination.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

## ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Examination of ice cream samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, by the methylene blue test, and samples are graded according to Ministry of Health provisional grades. Plate counts on the samples and presumptive tests for B.Coli are not carried out.

During the year 45 samples were submitted for examination. The results were as follows:—

Grade I ... ..	34	75.56%
Grade II ... ..	2	17.78%
Grade III ... ..	2	4.44%
Grade IV ... ..	1	2.22%

The methylene blue test is not a statutory test and the Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the result of any one sample. It is suggested that it would be reasonable to expect about 50% of samples throughout the year to fall into Grade I, 80% into Grades I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

The Grade IV sample was of loose ice cream and on investigation was considered to be due to inadequate sterilisation of the serving equipment. A follow-up sample was placed in Grade I.

A copy of the laboratory report is sent to the retailer in respect of all samples taken, together with a request that he should not use a favourable report for advertising purposes.

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The Council are the Food and Drugs authority for the Urban District. During the year forty-four samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis as follows:—

Sample No.	Article	Sample No.	Article
103	Lemonade Powder.	125	Steak and Kidney Pie.
104	Cheez Whiz.	126	Egg Rusk (Tea break)
105	Green Peas, Frozen.	127	Salted Cashew Nuts.
106	Raspberry Drops.	128	Instant Coffee.
107	Cream of Chicken Soup.	129	Ground Nutmeg.
108	Potted Salmon with Butter.	130	Brandy Flavour.
109	Lemonade.	131	Liquid Extract of Vegetable Origin.
110	Blackcurrant Jam.	132	Arrowroot.
111	Butter.	133	Pasteurised Cheese Spread with Pineapple.
112	Stomach Powder.	134	Aspic Jelly (Powder).
113	Dandelion Coffee.	135	Rum.
114	Tomato Soup.	136	Figgerolls.
115	Instant Potato.	137	Diabetic Marmalade.
116	Coffee Spread.	138	Horseradish Relish.
117	Yeast Extract	139	Swiss Ravioli.
118	Dried Baking Yeast.	140	Stuffed Pork Roll.
119	Minestrone Italian Vegetable Soup.	141	Table Jelly.
120	Flat Bread.	142	Cheese Snack.
121	Foam Crystals.	143	Oxtail Soup.
122	Cheese Spread.	144	Asparagus Soup.
123	Mushroom Ketchup.	145	Milk Gums.
124	Blackcurrant Syrup.	146	Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk.

On sample No. 126, the Analyst reported that this sample consisted of rusks of extremely light texture and was sold with the claim "made from eggs," and a further claim "the extremely light texture of Teabreaks makes them ideal for slimming and easy digestion".

The analysis confirmed that the rusks contained a substantial proportion of egg but, while the examination showed



that they had a light texture which had the effect of reducing the weight of the biscuit, the analyst could find no justification for the claim that they were ideal for slimming.

The matter was taken up with the importers, who stated that the present label is being altered. The words "extremely light texture of Teabreaks makes them ideal for slimming and easy digestion" have been deleted and the following wording, which has been agreed by the Public Analyst, has been substituted: "ideal for a slimming diet, provided that the number consumed a day is carefully regulated."

Sample No. 143—Oxtail Soup. The analyst reported as follows: "this soup powder was in substantial accord with the list of ingredients on the label. The item 'Oxtail' appears very near the end of the list of ingredients and the proportion of this constituent is therefore small. In my opinion, this soup powder would be more properly described as 'Oxtail Flavour'". The question of standards for non-liquid soups is under review with the object of formulating a code of practice. The Analyst's observations were brought to the notice of the manufacturer concerned.

Sample 146—T.T. Pasteurised Milk—was submitted to the Public Analyst following a complaint that two bottles of tuberculin tested pasteurised milk had been delivered to the complainant with what appeared to be solid froth at the top of the bottles. The Analyst reported as follows:—

"This sample was submitted as a result of an observation that it contained a layer of froth on the top of the milk. It consisted of a full one pint bottle of milk and examination confirmed that there was in fact a layer of froth approximately one inch deep on the top of the milk.

"Careful chemical examination showed that this was normal milk. No foreign constituent was detected.

"A possible explanation of the presence of the froth may be that a quantity of minute air bubbles was incorporated in the milk during the bottling process, subsequently rising to the surface, causing a froth which did not later disperse."

The complaint and the laboratory report were brought to the notice of the supplier.

All the other samples were reported upon as genuine.

## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

No new educational activity in food hygiene was undertaken during the year, but routine re-inspections of all types of food premises were carried on throughout the year. Many food shops have been and are being modernised and improved with consequent improvement in the facilities for hygienic food handling.

There were no prosecutions under the Regulations during the year.

## CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

In December the Council approved in principle the establishment of a small smoke control area as a pilot scheme and authorised the necessary preliminary survey but this work was not commenced before the end of the year.

The Byelaw made under Section 24 of the Act ensures that domestic appliances installed in new buildings are capable of burning smokeless fuel or are otherwise capable of smokeless operation. There is no statutory obligation to use smokeless fuel, however, until a smoke control area is created.